

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, wherein insertions are underlined and deletions are indicated with strikethrough or double brackets. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A vehicle comprising:

a passenger compartment having a floor;

a rear seat disposed in the passenger compartment;

a driver's seat and a front passenger's seat respectively disposed in the passenger compartment in front of the rear seat, each of the driver's seat and the front passenger's seat comprising a seat support bracket attached to the floor of the passenger compartment at respective left and right support bracket attachment portions of said floor, said support bracket attachment portions defining a first level;

wherein a portion of said floor extends upwardly from said first level to define at least one recessed accommodating portion formed below the floor of the passenger compartment;

an engine arranged forward of the passenger compartment at a front end of the vehicle;

a fuel tank arranged under the rear seat and the passenger compartment;

a canister for storing and releasing evaporative fuel emissions; and

an exhaust pipe for receiving exhaust gas from the engine and outputting the exhaust gas during operation of the vehicle;

wherein the canister and the exhaust pipe are positioned in ~~respective~~ said at least one recessed accommodating portion ~~portion[[s]]~~ formed below the floor of the passenger compartment,

and wherein said at least one of the respective recessed accommodating portion ~~portion[[s]]~~ is located between the fuel tank and the engine.

2. (Currently Amended) A vehicle as set forth in Claim 1,
wherein the exhaust pipe includes an expansion chamber positioned in ~~one of said~~ at least one recessed accommodating portion[[s]].
3. (Currently Amended) A vehicle as set forth in Claim 2,
wherein the expansion chamber is arranged close to the canister by accommodating the expansion chamber and the canister in said at least one ~~of said~~ recessed accommodating portion[[s]], so that heat from the exhaust gas in the exhaust pipe is transferred to the canister.
4. (Currently amended) A vehicle as set forth in Claim 1,
wherein said at least one recessed accommodating portion[[s]] ~~are~~ is located beneath at least one of ~~a first the driver's seat, a first the front passenger's seat, and a space between the first driver's seat and the second front passenger's seat.~~
5. [canceled]
6. (Currently amended) A vehicle as set forth in Claim 4,
wherein ~~the~~ said at least one recessed accommodating portion comprises two recessed accommodating portions, which are located beneath the ~~first driver's seat and the second front passenger's seat, respectively.~~
7. (withdrawn, currently amended) A vehicle as set forth in Claim 4,
wherein ~~the~~ said at least one recessed accommodating portion comprises two recessed accommodating portions, which are located beneath the ~~first driver's seat and the space between~~

the first driver's seat and the second front passenger's seat respectively.

8. (Withdrawn) A vehicle comprising:

a passenger compartment having a floor;

a rear seat disposed in the passenger compartment;

an engine arranged forward of the passenger compartment at a front end of the vehicle;

a fuel tank arranged under the rear seat and the passenger compartment;

a canister for storing and releasing evaporative fuel emissions; and

an exhaust pipe for receiving exhaust gas from the engine and outputting the exhaust gas during operation of the vehicle;

wherein both of the canister and the exhaust pipe are accommodated in one recessed accommodating portion located beneath the floor of the passenger compartment, and between the fuel tank and the engine.

9. (Previously presented) A vehicle as set forth in Claim 1,

wherein said canister receives fuel from said fuel tank and supplies the fuel to the engine.

10. (withdrawn) A vehicle as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said canister receives fuel from said fuel tank and supplies the fuel to the engine.

11. [Canceled]

12. (withdrawn) A vehicle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said accommodating portion is formed in a floor panel of the vehicle.

13. (Withdrawn) A vehicle as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said recessed accommodating portion is located beneath at least one of a first seat, a second seat, and a space between the first and the second seat.

14. (Previously Presented) A vehicle, comprising:

- a passenger compartment having a floor;
- a rear seat disposed in the passenger compartment;
- a driver's seat and a front passenger seat disposed in the passenger compartment;
- an engine arranged forward of the passenger compartment at a front end of the vehicle;
- a fuel tank arranged under the rear seat and the passenger compartment;
- a canister for storing and releasing evaporative fuel emissions; and
- an exhaust pipe for receiving exhaust gas from the engine and outputting the exhaust gas during operation of the vehicle;

wherein the floor includes an intermediate portion disposed between the driver's seat and the front passenger seat and defining a first level,

wherein the canister and the exhaust pipe are positioned in respective recessed accommodating portions formed below the floor of the passenger compartment,

wherein the recessed accommodating portions are defined by portions of the floor extending upwardly from said first level,

and wherein one of the respective recessed accommodating portions is located between the fuel tank and the engine.

15. (Previously Presented) A vehicle as set forth in Claim 14, wherein the exhaust pipe includes an expansion chamber positioned in one of said recessed accommodating portions.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A vehicle as set forth in Claim 15~~ A vehicle, comprising:

a passenger compartment having a floor;

a rear seat disposed in the passenger compartment;

a driver's seat and a front passenger seat disposed in the passenger compartment;

an engine arranged forward of the passenger compartment at a front end of the vehicle;

a fuel tank arranged under the rear seat and the passenger compartment;

a canister for storing and releasing evaporative fuel emissions; and

an exhaust pipe for receiving exhaust gas from the engine and outputting the exhaust gas during operation of the vehicle;

wherein the floor includes an intermediate portion disposed between the driver's seat and the front passenger seat and defining a first level,

wherein the canister and the exhaust pipe are positioned in at least one recessed accommodating portion formed below the floor of the passenger compartment,

wherein the at least one recessed accommodating portion is defined by at least one portion of the floor extending upwardly from said first level,

wherein said at least one recessed accommodating portion is located between the fuel tank and the engine,

and wherein the exhaust pipe includes an expansion chamber which is arranged proximate the canister, so that during operation of the vehicle, some of the heat from the exhaust gas in the exhaust pipe is transferred to the canister.